

Claims

1. Preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. for use as a medicament.
2. Preparation according to claim 1, comprising live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. or the membrane fraction of said bacteria.
- 5 3. Pharmaceutical preparation comprising a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. and one or more excipients.
4. Plasma cholesterol-lowering agent comprising a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.
5. Use of a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.
- 10 for the production of a medicament for lowering plasma cholesterol.
6. Food supplement with cholesterol-lowering properties, comprising a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.
7. Food supplement according to claim 6 wherein said preparation comprises the membrane fraction or live or freeze-dried bacteria.
- 15 8. Probiotic with cholesterol-lowering properties containing a preparation of live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp.
9. Foodstuff comprising a food supplement according to claim 6 or 7.
10. Method for the production of a preparation of *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp., comprising culturing one or more cells of
- 20 *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum* spp. to a multi-cellular culture, harvesting said culture, and processing the cells of said culture into a preparation.
11. Method according to claim 10, involving processing the cells of said culture into a preparation of live *Rhodospirillum* spp. and/or *Phaeospirillum*
- 25 spp.

12. Method for the production of a food supplement according to claim 6 or 7, comprising making suitable for consumption a preparation according to claim 1 or 2.

13. Method for the production of a foodstuff according to claim 9, comprising
5 incorporating a food supplement according to claim 6 or 7 into a foodstuff.